

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 09MONTERREY79, CONTINUING NARCO-DEMONSTRATIONS CHALLENGE NUEVO LEON

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09MONTERREY79**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09MONTERREY79	2009-02-18 19:43	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Consulate Monterrey

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2011/02/10/index.php?section=politica&article=006n1pol>

VZCZCXRO5902
PP RUEHCD RUEHGD RUEHHO RUEHNG RUEHNL RUEHRD RUEHRS RUEHTM
DE RUEHMC #0079/01 0491943
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 181943Z FEB 09
FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3524
INFO RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 4570
RUEHXC/ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE
RHMFISS/FBI WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/HQ USNORTHCOM
RUEABND/DEA HQ WASHDC
RUEHMC/AMCONSUL MONTERREY 9083

192669
2009-02-18 19:43:00
09MONTERREY79
Consulate Monterrey
CONFIDENTIAL
09MONTERREY74
VZCZCXRO5902
PP RUEHCD RUEHGD RUEHHO RUEHNG RUEHNL RUEHRD RUEHRS RUEHTM
DE RUEHMC #0079/01 0491943
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 181943Z FEB 09
FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3524

INFO RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 4570
RUEHXC/ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE
RHMFISS/FBI WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/HQ USNORTHCOM
RUEABND/DEA HQ WASHDC
RUEHMC/AMCONSUL MONTERREY 9083

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MONTERREY 000079

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/18/2019

TAGS: [SNAR](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [PGOV](#) [KCRM](#) [CASC](#) [ECON](#) [MX](#)

SUBJECT: CONTINUING NARCO-DEMONSTRATIONS CHALLENGE NUEVO LEON

REF: MONTERREY 074

MONTERREY 00000079 001.2 OF 002

CLASSIFIED BY: Bruce Williamson, Consul General, Monterrey, State.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (C) Summary. Nuevo Leon residents are demanding that the state government do more to stop narco-funded demonstrations. Although the Nuevo Leon Governor and Secretary of Public Security have publicly said that organized crime is behind the protests - specifically naming the Gulf Cartel and their armed enforcers, the Zetas, municipal police have done nothing and state police have been very slow to disperse the protestors over the last week. One protest leader, a cell leader of the Zetas, was arrested, and the arresting officer was killed two days later. We believe that the Zetas are staging these demonstrations to challenge the state government and prove that they can disrupt the city at will. End Summary.

Protests Continue; Police Officer Killed

12. (C) A series of protests against the Mexican military turned violent on February 12 (see reftel). Gunmen killed a commander of the judicial police two days after he arrested one of the organizers of the protests. Juan Antonio Beltran Cruz was arrested on February 10 after a protest in Monterrey disrupted large part of the city. Ten minutes after the arrest, the commander of the judicial police in charge of his case, Ramon Jasso Rodriguez received threats against his life. Two days later Jasso was killed near his home. A reliable contact described Jasso as one of the few honest police on the state force. Beltran is a known member of the Zetas, a drug trafficking organization, and is accused of organizing the police protests. Zetas are reportedly paying Monterrey residents up to 500 pesos or US\$35 to protest the military presence in Monterrey.

Public Pressure for a Solution

13. (C) Governor of Nuevo Leon Jose Natividad Gonzalez Paras and Secretary of Public Security Aldo Fasci have acknowledged a link between organized crime and the protests. On February 17, for the first time they named the Gulf Cartel and its armed wing, the Zetas, as the entities responsible, adding that Nuevo Leon state police commanders and their officers had been the subject of numerous death threats. Nevertheless, the public is demanding that they do more to stop them. The road blocks in the city have taken place on major roads grid-locking large parts of the city and little has been done to break up them up. A long term Amcit resident has never seen demonstrations like this before. One day the police waited two hours to break up a protest. The next day they broke up the demonstration quickly and arrested protestors, but later the leading newspaper El Norte reported that they had released the protesters within 30 minutes, conveniently within walking distance of the next protest. Now that a drug connection has been officially acknowledged, police officers are reluctant to take action. A contact with inside knowledge of the police said that following Jasso's killing, police officers are hesitant to effect detentions because they do not want to sign documents linking themselves to an arrest.

14. (SBU) According to a poll conducted on the third day of the demonstrations by El Norte, 93% of Monterrey area residents support the military presence in the state, 4% were not sure and 3% wanted the military to leave. In addition, even prior to the Governor's February 17 statements, the public generally believed drug traffickers were behind the protests. There is speculation that the Zetas are using the demonstrations as a response to the military's success against their operations as there does not appear to be any other catalyst for the demonstrations. El Norte carried quotes from residents in a working class neighborhood who stated that the protest organizers went door to door offering cash and school supplies to those who joined the protest. A recent El Norte photo showed multiple back packs filled with school supplies in the car of one of the detained protestors (who was later released). The most recent tactic has been to recruit mothers carrying young infants to take part in the demonstrations, with the rationale apparently being that frustrated motorists would be less likely to aggressively challenge maternal figures standing in their way.

15. (C) Comment. The drug cartels have intimidated the municipal and state police forces for some time. For example, only the Mexican military, with some assistance from the federal police, conducts active operations against the drug cartels. A story related to the Consul General by a Nuevo Leon state legislator illustrates the situation. A fellow state legislator's car was stolen. When the legislator reported the theft to the police, officers said that they could do nothing. The legislator's staff went out to search for the car and found it several blocks away. However, when the legislator asked the police to retrieve the car, the police said that they needed to check with the Zetas first. After checking with the Zetas, the

MONTERREY 00000079 002.2 OF 002

police received the go-ahead and they finally returned the stolen car.

16. (C) Continued comment. These protests could have two purposes: to try to intimidate the Mexican military; or to influence the upcoming election for Governor in July 2009. Either way, the demonstrations are important because they constitute a direct challenge to the state, and they prove that the cartels can disrupt the city when they choose. We will follow closely whether the state and local governments have the political will to answer this challenge. End Comment.
WILLIAMSON